

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01578 212202Z

73

ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PM-03 DODE-00 L-01 MC-01 EB-03 PRS-01 SSO-00

INRE-00 /042 W

----- 109922

O 212137Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9814

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 1578

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PIBEK HO

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH COLONEL MELGAR

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1537

1. COLONEL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR, NEWLY APPOINTED CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, ASKED MILGP COMMANDER TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND INSISTED ON SPEAKING TO THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY. THE AMBASSADOR, MELGAR, HONDURAN LIAISON OFFICER COLONEL WALTER VALENZUELA, AND MILGP COMMANDER MET ON LATE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 19 AT THE HOME OF MILGP COMMANDER.

2. MELGAR TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS AN EXPERIENCED SOLDIER WHO WISHED TO ENHANCE THE EFFICIENCY AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WAS A SOLDIER FIRST, AND HAD NOT BEEN PARTICULARLY AT EASE IN PREVIOUS MINGOV POSITION. FURTHERMORE, HE CHARACTERIZED HIS OWN POLITICAL ORIENTATION AS RIGHT OF CENTER AND SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION THE MAJORITY OF THE LT. COLONEL'S GROUP ALSO WERE OF THIS ORIENTATION.

3. HE QUERIED THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 01578 212202Z

F-86 TRANSFER. HE APPARENTLY WANTED FIRST HAND

ASSURANCES OF USG POSITION RELATIVE TO THE AIRCRAFT LICENSING. HE ALSO MENTIONED TO THE AMBASSADOR THE AVAILABILITY OF WEAPONS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THE HAF. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USG WOULD HAVE TO GRANT LICENSING PERMISSION FOR THE TRANSFER OF SUCH ARMS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOT INTERESTED IN PROVOKING AN ARMS RACE BY PURCHASING A LARGE NUMBER OF WEAPONS. MELGAR SAID THAT HIS MAIN INTEREST IS TO MODERNIZE AND STANDARDIZE THE PRESENT WEAPONS SYSTEMS USED BY THE HAF.

4. COMMENT: MELGAR'S INSISTENCE ON TALKING PERSONALLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR IS OUT OF CHARACTER. IN HIS PREVIOUS POSITION, HE WAS NOTED FOR HIS TACITURNITY AND GENERAL RELUCTANCE TO HAVE CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE MISSION. HOWEVER, THIS TIME HE INSISTED ON SEEING THE AMBASSADOR PERSONALLY AND ARRIVED TWENTY MINUTES PRIOR TO THE AGREED MEETING TIME. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT MELGAR PRESENTLY FINDS HIMSELF IN A POSITION CONSIDERABLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT HE CONFRONTED WHEN INITIALLY NAMED CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES AFTER THE MARCH 31 REORGANIZATION. THE BREAKING OF THE UB BRIBERY SCANDAL HAS REINFORCED THIS POSITION OF STRENGTH WITHIN THE HAF BECAUSE THERE IS NO CLEAR CUT INDIVIDUAL SUBSTITUTE TO TAKE OVER AS CHIEF OF STATE EXCEPT MELGAR, IF GENERAL LOPEZ IS FORCED OUT. HE APPARENTLY REALIZES THAT AND PROBABLY WISHED TO ASSURE THE USG THAT HE IS BOTH EXPERIENCED, AND FRIENDLY TOWARD THE UNITED STATES. FURTHERMORE, HE UNDOUBTEDLY REALIZES THAT THE BEST WAY TO RETAIN THE BACKING OF THE NEW MILITARY LEADERSHIP IS TO SHOW THEM THAT HE CAN OBTAIN ASSISTANCE FROM THE US TO IMPROVE THE HAF.

SANCHEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEGUCI01578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750139-0816
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750430/aaaabcof.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 TEGUCIGALPA 1537
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH COLONEL MELGAR
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MASS, HO, US, (MELGAR, JUAN ALBERTO), (SANCHEZ, PHILIP V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006